## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

## ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ

1211 GENEVA 27 - SWITZERLAND Telegr.: UNISANTE-Geneva

Tél. 34 60 61 Télex. 27821

1211 GENÈVE 27 - SUISSE Télégr.: UNISANTÉ-Genève

29 August 1974

In reply please refer to: T16/87/2

Prière de rappeler la référence:

Dear Professor Lederberg,

Further to Dr Kaplan's cable and letter of 21 August, I am writing to confirm that WHO is convening a Planning Group from 15-17 October 1974 to consider its projected Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases.

For your information, I attach an extract from the report of the Advisory Committee on Medical Research, which, as you know, met in June of this year. The ACMR strongly recommended the institution of this Special Programme with the following objectives, and also recommended the formation of a planning group to make recommendations on the measures needed to establish the Programme.

## Objectives:

- (1) The application of modern biomedical concepts and methods to develop new approaches for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of tropical communicable diseases.
- (2) The creation of expertise in the relevant biomedical sciences in developing countries; the emphasis should be placed first on Africa but, building on the experience gained, this aspect of the programme should be extended to other regions as rapidly as available resources allowed.
- (3) The provision of research training in developing countries in close co-operation with universities and allied institutions, and the improvement of career opportunities for research workers.
- (4) The instigation of continuing studies of the demographic and socioeconomic impact of these diseases and of disease control measures developed against them.

We will be most grateful if you will agree to give your time and effort to help organize this Programme, which will become one of the major endeavours of the World Health Organization.

Professor J. Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University Medical Center
Stanford, Ca. 94305
United States of America

ENCLS: As indicated

For the purpose of this Planning Group, you would be appointed a WHO temporary adviser and WHO would be responsible for your travel by air (economy class) and per diem. A note about the travel accident insurance which would be taken out on your behalf is enclosed.

The WHO Secretariat is in the process of preparing background documentation and this will be sent to you in due course. In the meantime, I would be pleased if you could let me know as soon as possible if you are able to accept this invitation.

Yours sincerely,

Howard C. Goodman, M.D. Special Programme for Research

and Training in Tropical Diseases

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